



## St Peter's C of E (Aided) Primary School

Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8TF

☎: 01252 714115 Fax: 01252 721215

✉: [info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)

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### Our Vision Statement

*"At St Peter's we have high expectations where everyone achieves and succeeds within a safe, inclusive Christian community. We promote independence, respect and empathy. Through an exciting curriculum, children are inspired to become lifelong learners and active world citizens."*

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

|                        |                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Person Responsible:    | Sarah Marshall                                   |
| Governor Committee:    | Children & Learning                              |
| Review Period:         | Every 3 years or in light of any new regulations |
| Status:                | Recommended                                      |
| Date Adopted:          | Autumn Term 2019                                 |
| Next review:           | Autumn Term 2022                                 |
| Ratified by Governors: | 21 November 2019                                 |

#### What does Worship mean to us?

At St Peter's worship is at the heart of each school day. It is a time for the whole school community to step away from the busyness of daily routines. It is a time to come closer to God and a time to reflect. At St. Peter's, we try to create a sense of belonging through worship. We aim to provide a variety of opportunities to enable our school community to both understand the mystery of God and develop a spiritual awareness. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities. Members of staff aim to lead the children to have positive attitudes and values towards life and the gifts and privileges we have. We are committed to ensuring each individual will derive some benefit from these sessions.

Our collective worship affirms and celebrates the values and ethos of our school. It is a central feature of the school's life. God and the gospel teachings underpin worship at St Peter's. We may also refer to festivals from other faiths, but always in the context of Christianity. Collective worship is a special time for our children and staff to reflect upon their life experiences.

#### **One theme will feature throughout the week.**

A schedule of themes is available at the start of the term for the whole term and is also published on the website. Themes support the school's values of: Courage, Inclusiveness and Active Citizen and cover:

**The liturgical calendar, Christian practice and beliefs, the gospels and relevant global and national awareness themes. Worship is delivered with appropriate subtle reference to British Values and respect for diversity and other religions/world views.**

In order to achieve these aims we provide the following opportunities:

- Time to come together to praise God;
- Time for thinking, sharing, listening, discussing, silence and reflection;
- Time to learn about Jesus' teachings from The Bible;
- An understanding of worldwide Christian traditions and beliefs;
- An awareness of key events in the Liturgical year;
- Time to reflect on Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. cross, candles, bread, wine, light etc.);
- Time to worship through traditional and contemporary hymns and songs; and
- Visitors who are invited to attend and lead school worship.



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### All acts of worship will:

- follow a structure to ensure a quality experience for all;
- follow a given theme;
- have God/Jesus or the Holy Spirit as the focus or point of reflection;
- be distinctively Christian in teaching;
- include a Bible reading or similar;
- include a prayer;
- give a message to take forth; and
- be varied in delivery.

A variety of experiences are covered during our collective worship sessions, including:

- A reading from the Bible (Old and New Testament)
- A poem, story or drama
- A film clip or presentation
- Artwork – traditional and contemporary (from different cultures)
- A personal account of an experience or event
- Pictures/artefacts/props (from different cultures)
- Hymns
- Prayers
- Music – from many traditions and cultures – not always specifically Christian
- Silence for reflection
- Visits to church
- Visitors to school

We hope that all our pupils will participate in our collective worship. However, participation in worship is not obligatory and parents or guardians who wish to withdraw their children are asked to discuss their decision with the Head teacher. Worship is not delivered with the assumption that everyone is a Christian.

### Collective Worship takes place daily in a variety of settings:

- Monday 10am:** The whole school gathers together, and Collective Worship is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. This assembly follows our planned theme and will have a Christian focus or if PSHE led, it will be linked to Christian teachings.
- Tuesday 10am:** Collective worship is organised in key stages. One key stage will attend a worship session led by the Vicar of St Peter's Church or an SLT member. The other key stage will attend class, year group or key stage worship.
- Wednesday 2.30 pm:** The whole school joins together to worship through hymns and prayer
- Thursday 10 am:** Worship in class, year group or key stage. A prayer and hymn will always be included.
- Friday 9am:** Whole school collective worship is led by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or a member of the SLT. This is a special assembly to celebrate children's achievements and the school's successes. Parents are invited to this assembly. A prayer and a hymn will always be included. Once a year, each class will have an opportunity to lead an assembly to which parents will be invited - a prayer will always be included.



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Worship which takes place in class or year groups provides opportunities for children to reflect and pray in smaller groups. It allows children to learn to lead the worship. Through this they may gain confidence in asking questions and giving their thoughts on spiritual subjects. In addition to formal prayers, the children are encouraged to compose their own simple prayers on a variety of themes. These form an important part of our special assemblies and other festivals. All classes will have a defined Worship area/corner in the classroom. Teachers will build up a collection of suitable artefacts.

### **Additional Collective worship**

#### **Church Services**

We organise special services which take place at St Peter's Church to celebrate events in the Church calendar. These traditionally include Christmas, Harvest, Easter and St Peter's Feast Day. All children attend these services. A Christmas Carol Service is also held at St Peter's Church.

#### **Staff Reflection**

This is held before school once a month. It is open to all staff.

#### **Parents Prayer**

This is held once a month and led by a parishioner. It is open to all parents/guardians.

#### **Pause Day**

A Pause Day will be held each year to celebrate either Easter, Creation or Pentecost. A prayer/reflection room will be made available to the whole school community.

#### **Worship Committee**

The school's Worship Committee will exchange ideas with other schools and will also act as a channel for all children to voice their ideas for developing Worship in the school.

#### **Prayer**

Prayer reflects a personal relationship with God. At St. Peter's, we encourage pupils to explore different forms of prayer from individual prayer to group prayer in both formal and informal settings.

During our prayer, it is important to:

- Create the right atmosphere and setting;
- Make the best use of both silence and music;
- Lead the children in a meaningful experience of traditional prayers;
- Enable children to pray with spontaneity and openness;
- Always respect the right to be listened to and to remain silent;
- Have the courage, as adults, to share with the children;
- Instil in children, a sense of respect and reverence;
- Ensure that prayer reflects the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging, peace, anger and loneliness and above all, celebration for our lives;
- Thank, ask and praise; and
- Give children an understanding of the value of prayer, and its importance in the Christian faith and other faiths.



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### Commitment

The Worship Leader will ensure that all staff members have any necessary support in planning and delivering worship sessions. Resources will be available, and training will be delivered on a regular basis. This will be supported by the clergy at St Peter's. All staff will participate in Worship.

### Evaluation

Worship will be well planned and recorded. Its impact will be evaluated. Through the SLT and The Governing Body, the following questions will be addressed:

- How important is worship to the life of the school?
- How positive are learners' attitudes to Collective Worship?
- To what extent do learners and staff of all faiths and none, derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from Collective Worship? (Diocesan Guidance on Collective Worship)
- Are there opportunities to reflect and empathise with others whose circumstances are different from our own?
- How well does Collective Worship develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith both nationally and globally?

Class Worship will be evaluated by the Worship Leader and other staff members and governors. Children will also be invited to give feedback on Worship led by adults.

**Sarah Marshall**  
**Worship Leader**